

# Public Education

Major Initiatives and Accomplishments

September 29, 2003 DRAFT

## Major themes:

- Students are learning more.
- We have invested more.
- Schools are more accountable.
- Parents and students have more choice.
- Students and schools are tech-smart.

## 1. Students are learning more.

### a. Adoption of competency-measured learning.

- The Performance Plus proposal puts Utah on a course of measuring competency rather than seat time. It is a major change of direction both in how we measure and fund progress. Students will advance based on what they know and receive assistance based on what they don't know.

### b. Many test scores are up and we seek progress each year.

- Utah 8<sup>th</sup> graders have gone from the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in SAT scores in 1994 to the 53<sup>rd</sup> in 2002. Eleventh graders have gone from the 55<sup>th</sup> percentile to the 56<sup>th</sup> in the same time period
- Utah's scores on the National Assessment of Education Progress, the NAEP, have improved.
  - In 1992, 66 percent of Utah fourth graders performed math at or above the basic level. That rose to 70 percent by 2000
  - In 1992, 67 percent of Utah eighth graders performed math at or above the basic level, that has risen by 1 percent in 2000.
  - Utah fourth grade reading scores went from 67 percent being at or above basic in 1992 to 69 percent in 2002.

### c. We're improving the education of our minority populations.

Utah recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the government of Mexico to help better educate students who spend time in both governments' education systems.

## **2. We have invested more.**

### **a. We made education the highest funding priority in state government.**

- Public education funding (minimum school program) has increased \$762 million from 1994-2004.
- Average teacher salary has increased 31 percent.
  - 1994-1995: \$29,081
  - 2001-2002: \$38,139
- Number of Classroom Teachers has increased by nearly 2,300.

1994-95:	19,924	11.5% increase
2001-02:	22,211	2,287 absolute increase
- Pupil / Teacher Ratios have declined by 4 students per teacher and \$51.6 million has been spent on class size reduction.
  - 1994-95      24.43
  - 2001-02      20.51

### **b. School and Institutional Trust Land Assets have grown from \$84 million in 1993 to \$453 million in 2003, a more than five-fold increase over the past decade.**

## **3. Schools are more accountable.**

### **a. Each student is tested against definable standards and results are reported to students, teachers and parents.**

- UPASS

### **b. Our data is accessible to anyone.**

- Utah State Office of Education funding shown online.
- Teacher contracts shown online.
- ACT, AP, and CRT data is available online.

### **c. We're grading our own schools and districts.**

- Beginning in October, the state will release school performance reports for each public school in Utah. The reports will inform the state's residents of the quality of schools and the educational achievement of students in the state's public education system

## **4. Parents and students have more choice.**

### **a. Charter Schools offer more choice and increased competition within the public school system.**

**b. High-tech high schools.**

- First school opened in fall of 2003: The Academy of Math, Engineering and Science
- Five addition high-tech high schools will open in the next four years.

**c. Electronic High School.**

- The electronic high school was started in 1994 under the leadership of Governor Leavitt. This year, nearly 13,000 students were served by the high school.

**d. EDNET allows students to take classes that might not be available to them locally.**

This two-way, fully interactive video network connects schools throughout Utah and beyond using various technologies. Each site in the network interacts with other sites in real-time. Currently more than 270 interactive sites make up the EDNET system. In total, 40 Utah high schools have EDNET sites offering 150 courses.

The Utah Education Network Satellite System (UENSS) is an integrated component of the EDNET system. This digital satellite technology provides one-way video and two-way audio for course delivery to over 90 sites throughout the state.

## **5. Students and schools are tech-smart.**

**a. Ninety-nine percent of Utah schools have Internet access, ranking Utah 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation. (Education Week Technology Counts: 2003.)**

- Nearly nine in ten classrooms have high-speed access.

**b. Data is accessible to anyone**

- Utah State Office of Education funding data is available online to anyone with a computer and internet access.
- Teacher contracts are also available online.

**c. Retention agreements have been signed to keep good math, science, and information technology teachers.**

- Provided scholarships to teachers for advanced degrees in technology, math and science.
- Enrolled administrators in advanced certification programs.

**d. Technology 2000**

- Provided internet access to nearly every public school in the state.

- Expanded distance learning opportunities.
- Increased number of graduates and certificate holders in information technology.

**e. Initiatives:**

- Utah Education Network (UEN)
- EdNet
- Electronic high school

**Selected public education-focused Initiatives**

*(These initiatives are from state of the state addresses, 1993—2003.)*

One-half of the initiatives introduced in the governor's state of the state addresses have had an education focus. In all, 39 initiatives (both public and higher ed.) aimed at improving the quality of Utah's current and future workforce have been launched. Selected public education examples include the following:

- Centennial Schools
- Create another 100 Centennial Schools
- 40% increase in class size reduction funds
- Class size reduction
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools
- Public Charter Schools
- Class size reduction in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades
- Teacher review legislation
- Public school budget increase by 7.4%
- Governor's Music and Education Program
- Alternative schools
- Reading skills enhancement
- Supplementary reading instruction in first, second, and third grades
- Reading teacher enhancement
- Read before entering school
- Utah Basic Skills Competency Test
- Teacher incentives for math, science, technology
- UPASS
- 4-year education improvement plan
- High-tech charter schools
- Weighted competency Unity
- Education funding maintained
- Roads and sales tax
- Water and sales tax & general fund
- Sales tax collection on internet, catalog, telephone sales
- Electronic high school